

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 1, 2006, the Examiner's claim rejections have been considered. Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections regarding all pending claims and earnestly solicit allowance of these claims.

1. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 22-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which the Applicants regard as the invention.

In response, Applicants have amended the claims to remove the limitation that “no portion of the tear bar between the first and second side portions is closer to the strip of media than the first side portion.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 22 and 30 are allowable and their dependent claims 23-29 and 31-34, respectively, are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest and *bona fide* effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all of claims 22-34 is believed to be in order, and a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be due with the submission of this paper. However, if Applicant is mistaken, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee(s) or underpayment of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 194293, Deposit Account Name STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 712-8300. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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